

A Success Story:

Improved Disease Investigation Tool For Kansas Immunization Program

State Program: Kansas Immunization Program

Essential Service: Diagnose and Investigate

Annual Activity Objective for Desired Impact Objective:

From July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 provide ongoing epidemiologic consultation that would not otherwise exist.

Issue:

Incomplete information for successful investigation of measles and rubella through the KDHE disease reporting system, HAWK.

Because vaccination against vaccine-preventable diseases is in the top ten successes of the 20th century, recent health care providers have not had the opportunity to see many these diseases. However, when a child/adult develops a skin rash, health care providers are quick to diagnose measles (german measles) or rubella(three day measles) because unlike some diseases like polio, this one still persists. There are serious complications related to measles that can lead to death. While a rubella infection is not considered to be serious for the child/adult, should a pregnant woman contract this disease in the first trimester of pregnancy, her infant has a good chance of developing congenital rubella syndrome. This syndrome includes, but not limited to, cataracts, heart problems and mental retardation.

Intervention:

What we know: The current disease reporting system lacked the ability to coach the professional in characteristics of the disease, assessment, transmission, travel history and protection against the disease. Both of these diseases are highly contagious with one confirmed case of measles considered to be an outbreak.

What we did: Because of the epidemiologic support provided by this grant, our program was able to add pertinent information to the reporting mechanism to include the additional information needed .

Progress:

Epidemiologist conducted a weekly regional telephone conference call series. There were four series conducted which included surveillance of disease and application of this surveillance with case studies.

Pertussis cases increased for this period to 35. There were no confirmed cases of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, Congenital Rubella or Mumps for the same period. Fourteen cases of Strep Pneumoniae, invasive among children<5 were reported. Three cases of Strep Pneumoniae Meningitis among children <5 was reported. No cases of Haemophilus Influenzae Invasive Disease or Meningitis was report among children <5. Nineteen cases of acute and chronic Hepatitis B combined were reported in persons 2 to 18 years of age.

Continued epidemiological consultation to the Immunization Program Nurse Consultants on confirmation, management and control of incidences of vaccine-preventable-diseases. Activities

included the development of a written check list to enhance disease investigation, bimonthly VPD exercises to develop investigational skills of the Immunization Nurse Consultants and quarterly meetings to develop enhancements of the present reporting tool for VPD's in order to improve VPD surveillance and tracking.

Impact:

This will enhance the Immunization Program and the Immunization Nurse Consultants ability to determine the true presence of measles or rubella in a community.

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